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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	010310-00272-4
First Named Inventor	Paolo M.B. Tiramani
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	09/623,283
Filing Date	August 31, 2000
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

IMPROVEMENTS IN HARD-SIDED LUGGAGE

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

is attached hereto

OR

was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	
60/076,705	03/04/1998	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)					
PCT/US99/04752	03/03/1999						
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.							
As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number <u>003705</u> → Place Customer Number Bar Code Label here <input type="checkbox"/> Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below							
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number				
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.							
Direct all correspondence to: <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number <u> </u> OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below							
Name	David V. Radack						
Address	Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC						
Address	600 Grant Street, 44th Floor						
City	Pittsburgh	State	PA				
Country	US	Telephone	(412) 566-6777				
		Fax	(412) 566-6099				
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.							
Name of Sole or First Inventor:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle if any)		Family Name or Surname					
Paolo M. B.		Tiramani					
Inventor's Signature				11/22/00 Date			
Residence: City	Greenwich	State	CT	Country	USA	Citizenship	UK
Post Office Address	28 Dairy Road CT						
Post Office Address							
City	Greenwich	State	CT	ZIP	06830	Country	USA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the <u>1</u> supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto							

8-28-2000 6:04PM

FROM 500 GROUP, INC. 203 622 4093

P. 3

ECKERT SEAMANS
08/28/2000 17:37 FAX

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BANKRUPTCY PENDING DOCKET NO. 99

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PTO/WEB/10 (1-99)
Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
0651-031

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(t) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNDocket Number (Optional)
010310-00272-4

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: PAOLO M. B. TIRAMANI, JOHN A. BOZAK, SOOHYUN RAM and CHESTER FUDGE

Application or Patent No.: PCT/US99/04752

Filed or Issued:

Title: Improvements in Hard-Sided Luggage

I hereby state that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below.

an officer of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below.

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN 500 GROUP, INC.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Harbor Square, 700 Canal Street,
Stamford, CT 06902

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

the application identified above.

the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

no such person, concern, or organization exists.

each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

AIRWAY INDUSTRIES, INC. (Small Business Concern)

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING PAOLO M. B. TIRAMANI

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER President

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 26 Dairy Road, Greenwich, CT 06830

SIGNATURE

DATE 8/29/00

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PTD/SB/10 (1-98)
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**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
 (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

Docket Number (Optional)
010310-00272-4

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: PAOLO M.B. TIRAMANI, JOHN A. BOZAK, SOOHYUN HAM and CHESTER FUDGE
 Application or Patent No.: PCT/US99/04752
 Filed or Issued: _____
 Title: Improvements in Hard-Sided Luggage

I hereby state that I am

the owner of the small business concern identified below;
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below.

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN AIRWAY INDUSTRIES, INC.

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN Airway Park, Ellwood City, PA 16117

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Questions related to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Administration, Size Standards Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

the specification filed herewith with title as listed above;
 the application identified above;
 the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:
 no such person, concern, or organization exists.
 each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

500 GROUP, INC. (Small Business Concern)

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

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NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Gary Cerrone

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Vice President and General Manager

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING Airway Park, Ellwood City, PA 16117

SIGNATURE  DATE 8/30/2000

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